

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-0364**

**Fork Methodist Church**

**12800 Fork Road**

**Fork, Baltimore County**

**1895**

**Private**

According to prior documentation, the Fork Methodist Church congregation was organized in the late 1700s, at which point its members constructed a frame chapel. In 1809, that church was replaced by a brick building. According to the extant church's cornerstone, the present building was improved in 1895; however whether this improvement was to the 1809 brick church or a structure erected between 1809 and 1895 remains uncertain. The present edifice is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century.

The Fork Methodist Church is a one-and-a-half-story, wood frame building clad in vinyl siding with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The building, which sits on a solid parged stone foundation, is dominated by a three-story, one-bay-square wood frame bell tower with corner spires. The tower projects from the center of the three-bay-wide façade, which fronts east on the west side of Fork Road. The first story of the tower is pierced by a paneled double-leaf wood door with vinyl panning in the space between the door and the pointed arch multi-light leaded stained glass window. A cantilevered gable roof projects above the transom and shelters the entry. The second story of the tower features a circa 1960 round rose window with concrete tracery. A tripartite opening composed of three lancet arches filled with louvered wood ventilators. The attic story of the main block is pierced by two multi-light leaded double-hung stained glass windows that flank the tower. A one-story canted apse projects from the rear of the four-bay-deep building. Beside the apse is a cinderblock exterior chimney. A large brick addition was constructed in 1960. This two-story, four-bay-wide addition has an asphalt shingle-clad side gable roof and shed-roofed porch supported by stone piers. One stretcher bond exterior chimney rises along the gable end of the addition. The cemetery, which dates to 1851 and continues to be used for interment, comprises approximately 300 graves arranged in north-south rows that face east.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0364

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Fork Methodist Church

other

### 2. Location

street and number 12800 Fork Road not for publication

city, town Fork vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Fork Methodist Episcopal Church

street and number Circuit of Baltimore telephone Not Available

city, town Fork state MD zip code 21051

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 2225 folio 373

city, town Towson tax map 54 tax parcel 98 tax ID number 1106045052

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0364

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1895, the Gothic Revival style Fork Methodist Church is a one-and-a-half-story, wood frame building clad in vinyl siding with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The building, which sits on a solid parged stone foundation, is dominated by a three-story, one-bay-square wood frame bell tower with corner spires. The tower projects from the center of the three-bay-wide façade, which fronts east on the west side of Fork Road. The first story of the tower is pierced by a paneled double-leaf wood door with vinyl panning in the space between the door and the pointed arch multi-light leaded stained glass window. A cantilevered gable roof projects above the transom and shelters the entry. The second story of the tower features a circa 1960 round rose window with concrete tracery. A tripartite opening composed of three lancet arches filled with louvered wood ventilators. The attic story of the main block is pierced by two multi-light leaded double-hung stained glass windows that flank the tower. A one-story canted apse projects from the rear of the four-bay-deep building. Beside the apse is a cinderblock exterior chimney. A large brick addition was constructed in 1960. This two-story, four-bay-wide addition has an asphalt shingle-clad side gable roof and shed-roofed porch supported by stone piers. One stretcher bond exterior chimney rises along the gable end of the addition.

The cemetery, which dates to 1851 and continues to be used for internment, comprises approximately 300 graves arranged in north-south rows that face east. The historic headstones include obelisks, upright slabs, and beveled ground markers, the majority of which date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A circa 1990 wood frame prefabricated shed clad in pressed vertical board siding with a gambrel roof clad in asphalt shingles is also located on the property.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0364

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1895-present

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1895, 1960

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

According to prior documentation, the Fork Methodist Church congregation was organized in the late 1700s, at which point its members constructed a frame chapel. In 1809, that church was replaced by a brick building. According to the extant church's cornerstone, the present building was improved in 1895; however whether this improvement was to the 1809 brick church or a structure erected between 1809 and 1895 remains uncertain. The present edifice is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Fork was a small rural community near Joppa Road and the Harford Turnpike. According to the 1850 Atlas of Baltimore County, the village had a post office, a meetinghouse, a tavern, and a number of dwellings. The town continued to remain small in nature and by 1877, there was also a hotel, a store, and the Fork School. In 1915, the map continues to show the schoolhouse, meetinghouse, store, and hotel. However, at this time, there appears to be a more densely populated residential area near the intersection of what is currently Harford and Fork Roads.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0364

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County*. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>White Marsh</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1895, the Fork Methodist Church has been associated with the 2.4 acres known as tax parcel 98 of map 54 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 4, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



WHITE MARSH  
QUADRANGLE



BA-0365  
12900 FORK ROAD  
FORK  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

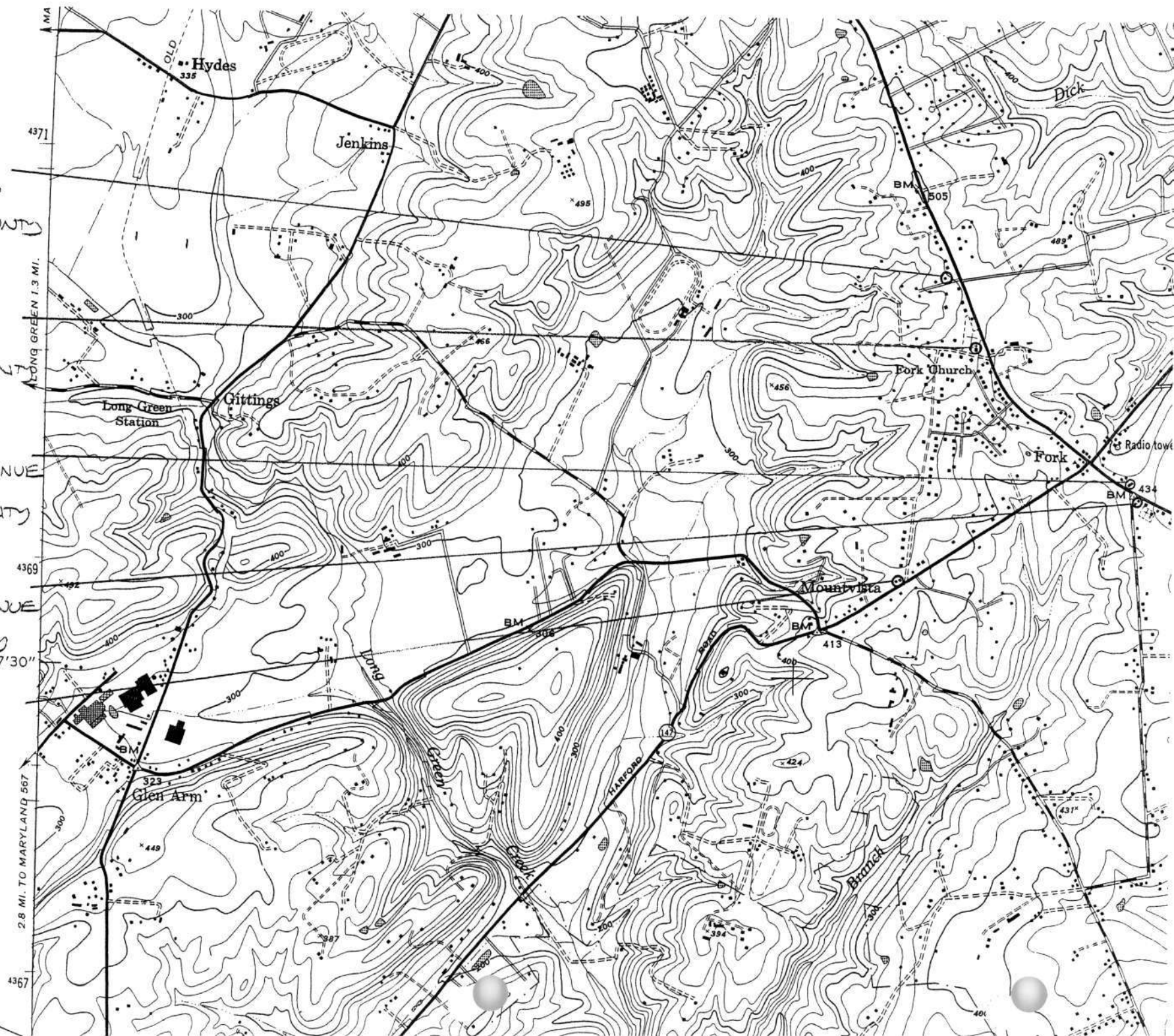
BA-0364  
12800 FORK ROAD  
FORK  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1517  
6740 SUNSHINE AVENUE  
FORK  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1516  
1801 SUNSHINE AVENUE  
FORK  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0247

BA-0540





BA-0364

12800 FORK ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MO-SHPD

E ELEVATION

1 of 4





BA-0364  
12800 FORK ROAD  
FORK  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
3/2001  
MD-SHPD  
SW CORNER

2 of 4



BA-0364

12800 FORK ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

NW CORNER

3 of 4



BA 0364

12800 FORK ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHRO

CEMETERY

4 of 4



**FORK METHODIST CHURCH** - 1809 - (Southeast side of) 12800 Fork Road, 0.4 mile west of Fork crossroads. Congregation was organized as Fork Meeting by Robert Strawbridge; an earlier chapel of frame, 30 x 40 feet, was built in 1773 on land, part of Charlesborough, given by James Baker. Francis Asbury preached here on June 9, 1776. A brick church was built in 1809 and has been much altered and extensive renovations were made in 1867, 1895, 1923 and 1928. A 70-foot high spire was constructed in 1895 by Samuel W. Porter and Son. The upper portion of the spire was removed in 1930. Frame church in Victorian Gothic style, with square entrance tower. Covered with asbestos shingles in 1923. Educational building added, 1958.

"...tower added at Fork M.E. Church...70 feet high by 9 feet square...new cornerstone...enameled frosted glass windows added...Samuel W. Porter & Son...had the contract for the carpenters work..."

--B.C. Union, September 14, 1895, p. 3, Also called Fork Meeting House. Congregation was organized as Fork Meeting by Robert Strawbridge. Chapel was built in 1773. Land given by James Baker. Asbury preached here on June 9, 1776. - - Journals of Francis Asbury, 1:189.

BA-364  
Fork United Methodist Church  
12800 Fork Road, Fork  
Jennifer K. Cosham, 23 May 2006  
Southeast elevation



White Marsh quadrangle

